



Monday, March 5, 2012

RSC Update: Balance the Budget, Not the Bloat in Government

From the Chairman

By now, reports on redundant, duplicative government spending are getting redundant and duplicative.

Last week, the Government Accountability Office published its second annual report identifying wasteful government spending from ongoing duplicative federal programs. The report also updated us on how well federal agencies cut wasteful programs identified in last year's first annual report. GAO officials found nearly \$100 billion worth of duplicative programs in last year's report and concluded that only 5% of this wasteful spending has been fully addressed.

Meanwhile, Senate Democrats refuse to pass a budget for the third straight year. President Obama releases a budget that will never balance. And, on top of more than \$100 billion in waste from last year's report, the GAO's second annual report found more than \$300 billion wasted annually on over 1,500 programs across dozens of government agencies.

What it reveals is clear: a Washington culture not serious about thrift and saving but rife with spending and bloat.

It's time to get our budget under control. The Republican Study Committee released a [federal budget proposal last year](#) which gets it back on track to balancing within a few years. We look forward to releasing another one real soon.

If there's one thing that needs to be duplicated annually around Washington, it isn't wasteful spending – it's smart thinking and a budget that actually balances.

God Bless,

Congressman Jim Jordan
Chairman, Republican Study Committee

RSC Media Activity – RSC members work hard to ensure that the conservative viewpoint is well-represented in all corners of the media. Visit our [Media Center](#) for more.

- Rep. Eric Cantor (VA-07) and Rep. Stephen Fincher (TN-08): [JOBS Act Just What Obama Ordered](#); Politico, February 28.
- Rep. Sam Graves (MO-06): [Small Business Helps Push the Economy Forward](#); The Hill, February 29.
- Rep. Pete Olson (TX-22): [Obama's Misguided Energy Policy](#); The Hill, February 29.

- Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer (MO-09): [Federal Regulations Are Stifling Higher Education](#); The Hill, February 29.
- Rep. Tim Scott (SC-01): [Government Should Protect, Not Assault Our Religious Freedom](#); The Hill, February 29.
- Rep. Sandy Adams (FL-24): [Keeping Your Private Information Safe From the NLRB's Overreach](#); Human Events, March 1.
- Rep. Marsha Blackburn (TN-07): [The TSA Is Coming to a Highway Near You](#); Forbes, March 1.
- Rep. Trent Franks (AZ-02): [What's Behind the President's Assault on our Religious Freedoms?](#); The Daily Caller, March 1.
- Rep. Jim Jordan (OH-04) and Rep. Darrell Issa (CA-49): [Obama Hasn't Learned on Spending](#); Politico, March 2.
- Rep. Tim Huelskamp (KS-01): [Obama versus the American Dream](#); The Washington Examiner, March 3.

RSC Member Activity – RSC members make it a priority to introduce productive, conservative solutions for America's future.

- Rep. Jeff Flake (AZ-06), along with 56 Republican Study Committee Members, [sent a letter](#) to Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell about their opposition to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the "Law of the Sea Treaty").
- Rep. Bill Posey (FL-15) introduced [H.R. 4030](#), the "Stop the Revolving Door in Washington Act," which would extend the "cooling off" period for Members of Congress if they chose to lobby when they left the Congress.
- Rep. Michael McCaul (TX-10) introduced [H.R. 4110](#), which will require the Secretary of State to certify to Congress that Pakistan is not aiding, assisting, advising or informing the Haqqani terrorist network in any way, otherwise U.S. aid to Pakistan will be cut off and redirected toward fighting Mexican drug cartel violence on our southwest border.
- Rep. Buck McKeon (CA-25) introduced [H.R. 4117](#), which will prohibit the use of private security contractors and members of the Afghan Public Protection Force to provide security for members of the Armed Forces, military installations and facilities in Afghanistan.
- Rep. Dennis Ross (FL-15) introduced the *None of Our Funds for the Interest, Exercise, or Leisure of Detainees Act*, also known as the [NO FIELD Act](#). The legislation would instruct the Budget Committee to reduce the appropriation for the Department of Defense for FY 2013 by \$750,000 -- the cost of a soccer field for detainees in Guantanamo Bay.

House Floor Activity – The following key legislation came through the House of Representatives recently.

- On February 28, the House approved [H.R. 2117](#), the *Protecting Academic Freedom in Higher Education Act*, which would repeal two burdensome Department of Education regulations on institutions of higher education.
- On February 28, the House approved [H.R. 1433](#), the *Private Property Rights Protection Act*. This bill preserves the constitutional protections for private property jeopardized by the Supreme Court's 2005 decision in *Kelo v. City of New London*.
- On February 29, the House approved [H.R. 1837](#), the *San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act*, will brings water supply certainty to the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys by correcting a man-made drought in California that has been created by environmental lawsuits resulting from the Endangered Species Act.

Outlook – A quick look at what's on the horizon.

- On Monday, President Obama meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House.
- On Tuesday and Wednesday, the House is scheduled to work and vote on two jobs bills. One is H.R. 2842, the *Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act*, legislation which will expand production of clean, renewable American energy by eliminating duplicative red tape on small canal and pipeline hydropower development projects.
- The other jobs bill is the *Jumpstart Our Business Startups (JOBS) Act*, a package of bills designed to help startups and entrepreneurs get off the ground, access investors and create jobs.
- On Tuesday or Wednesday, the House will also vote on H.R. 4105, *To apply the countervailing duty provisions of the Tariff Act of 1930 to nonmarket economy countries*, which would allow the Commerce Department to continue imposing anti-subsidy duties on nonmarket economies.
- Sec. of HHS Kathleen Sebelius, Sec. of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, Sec. of Transportation Ray LaHood, Sec. of Energy Steven Chu, Sec. of Defense Leon Panetta, Attorney General Eric Holder, and FBI Director Robert Mueller III will appear before various committees in the House and Senate this week.
- Tuesday is Super Tuesday, when 10 states - Alaska, Georgia, Idaho, Massachusetts, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Vermont and Virginia - hold their presidential nominating contests.
- On Friday, the Bureau of Labor Statistics is scheduled to release its employment situation report for February.

RSC Reports

- RSC Staff recently compiled a Policy Brief detailing the [President's FY 2013 Budget](#).
- Stay up to date on budget and spending news with [reports](#) from the RSC Budget and Spending Task Force.

- Check out the [RSC Sunset Caucus'](#) work to shrink the size of government and the [Repeal Task Force's](#) work to eliminate bad laws and regulations.
- House rules now require sponsors of legislation to provide a Constitutional Authority Statement that explains how Congress has the constitutionally-derived authority to enact their proposals. Click here to see liberals' [highly questionable attempts](#).
- Read the [RSC Money Monitor](#) to track how bills passed by the House affect budget authorizations, mandatory spending, and federal government revenue.

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House Republican Study Committee
Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman

Paul Teller, Executive Director

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Joe Murray, Professional Policy Staff

Curtis Rhyne, Professional Policy Staff

Ja'Ron Smith, Professional Policy Staff

Derek Khanna, Professional Policy Staff

Brian Straessle, Communications Director

Michael Tate, Deputy Communications Director

Wesley Goodman, Director of Conservative Coalitions and State Outreach

Yong Choe, Director of Business Outreach and Member Services

Rick Eberstadt, Research Assistant

1524 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

(202) 226-9717

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